Manhattan Project National Historical Park Tours at Los Alamos

May 10, 2019

In 2015 the Manhattan Project National Historical Park was officially established, with locations at Oak Ridge, Tennessee; Hanford, Washington; and here at Los Alamos.

While several parts of the park in Los Alamos are already publicly accessible, including the historic district walking tour, the Los Alamos History Museum, and of course the history gallery at the Bradbury Science Museum, several of the sites included in the park are generally off-limits to the public since they are on Los Alamos National Laboratory property.

But thanks to a collaboration between Los Alamos National Laboratory, the Department of Energy, and the National Park Service, April 5 marked the first of this year's rare public tours to three sites at Technical Area 18 (TA-18) where some of the most crucial work of the Manhattan Project was performed.

The Pond Cabin served as an office for Emilio Segrè's Radioactivity Group, a battleship bunker protected equipment and staff during explosives testing, and the Slotin Building was the site of the May 1946 criticality accident that led to physicist Louis Slotin's death.

After beginning their tour at the Bradbury Science Museum, the tour guests were bused to TA-18, where they saw what life and work in 1940s Los Alamos was like for scientists and staff working on the great scientific challenge.

The tour went well, and future tour dates have already been set for July 12 and 13, and October 4. Registration for the April 5 tour sold out within 20 minutes, and we anticipate similar levels of interest for the remaining tours, so stay tuned to the Bradbury Science Museum's MPNHP site for registration dates and times for the tours.

Additional information can also be found at https://www.nps.gov/mapr/index.htm.

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